

CURRENT COMMENT.

LAST year 20,174 men offered to enlist in the United States army and 6,647 were taken.

OUT of the 2,000,000 that inhabit New York and Brooklyn only 13,000 own their own homes.

HACKNEY coaches were forbidden during the reign of Charles II. on the ground that they destroyed the king's highway.

THE ocean is more productive than the land. An acre of good fishing ground will yield more food than an acre on the best farm.

A MYSTERIOUS ringing of electric bells in a house in Switzerland was traced to a spider, whose web had connected two wires.

JAPAN has 700 earthquakes observing stations, and the records of the 500 shocks that annually visit that country are accurately noted.

THE longest bridge in this country is the trestle which crosses a portion of Lake Pontchartrain, in Louisiana. It is nearly twenty-five miles long.

HABITUAT drunkards are cared for in an effective way in Norway and Sweden. The penalty is imprisonment, and during their incarceration they are fed on bread and wine, no water being allowed.

NORTH DAKOTA has a full community of Indian sisters established under an Indian mother superior, the first community of the kind ever established, though there have been three Indian sisters in other convents.

THE two oldest pensioners on the rolls of the New York pension office and two of the oldest in the United States, although pensioners are proverbially long-lived, are, Tupper and Gen. Bailey. They are veterans of 1812.

In Peru the cotton plant rises to the distinction of a tree instead of the comparatively diminutive shrub which grows in this country. The tree commences bearing when it is two years old, and it continues to bear every year for forty or fifty years.

THE alleged connection between gypsies and the nails used in the crucifixion has frequently been referred to. It is said that the tinkers are descendants of the one who made the nails for the cross and are condemned to wander continually without rest.

THE oldest American naval officers of rank are: Commodore Henry B. Hall, born in 1798, entered the service in 1813; Rear Admiral Seligman, born in 1804, entered the service in 1818; Commodore Samuel Lockwood, born in 1808, entered the service in 1829; Rear Admiral Samuel P. Lee, born in 1812, entered the service in 1825.

SUPERSTITION says the blackbird and thrush are "wandering souls" whose sins must be expiated on earth, hence they are forced to endure the rigors of winter. Rooks, jacksnaws, hawks and owls are animated by lost souls. The wagtail is called the "devil's bird" for no other reason than that it cleverly evades the missiles thrown at it.

In this country few books have ever attained the sale of Wallace's Den Har. The second edition recently appeared in England, and the Queen's Critic says of the book: "People who do not buy books to read, but to look at, would do well to get this book." He adds that the book is intemperately dull, prosy and, not to put too fine a point on it, silly.

It is evident that superstition has not yet entirely disappeared from Rhode Island. A few days ago, in order to balk an alleged vampire which was supposed to have been preying on a family of that state with fatal effect, the body of a deceased member was exhumed, the heart and liver taken therefrom and cremated and the body reinterred.

MARK KENNISTON, of Phillips, Mo., has a bull moose which he has raised from a calf, which is so tame that he comes to out every warm day to browse in the neighboring fields. He catches the big bull as easily as he would a pet lamb, and is breaking him to harness. He hitched the moose to a wagon last summer, and was carried ten miles at railroad speed before he could stop the animal.

It is John D. Rockefeller's custom to open his morning mail at the breakfast table. The letters from unknown writers are distributed among the children, who peruse them and mark upon each envelope the disposition which should be made of them. Afterward Mr. Rockefeller himself goes over the correspondence and revises the work, but to one unacquainted with such matters the accuracy of judgment displayed by the little ones in passing on the merits of begging requests can be nothing less than startling.

Two rather notable utterances have appeared in print lately respecting our two most original and successful American men of letters, Emerson and Hawthorne. One is Carlyle's rather cheerful and petty criticism of his old friend, Emerson, to Governor Duffy, his young Irish friend, which the latter reports in an English review; the other is the revelation of his own letters concerning Hawthorne's attitude in the civil war, now made public by his college friend, Horatio Bridge. Carlyle is reported as saying that Emerson borrowed his opinions, in part, from "Sartor Resartus," and as mimicking the way in which Emerson met objections with "Yissia, yissia."

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Gleaned By Telegraph and Mail.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.
The president directed the retirement from active service on account of illness of Col. R. R. Remy, judge-advocate-general of the navy, and Lieut. S. C. Ledy is mentioned as his most likely successor.

Gov. Beck, of Wisconsin, has issued a proclamation calling a special session of the legislature June 25 to reappoint the state into senate and assembly districts.

SECRETARY BLISS issued a general order to the army announcing the retirement of Brigadier General D. S. Stanley and paying a high tribute to his military services.

CAPT. E. H. RANDOLPH, of the Prince of Wales North Staffordshire regiment, committed suicide by jumping into the sea at Weymouth.

FRANCIS W. WHITMAN celebrated his 73d birthday at a dinner and organized the "Walt Whitman Reunion."

GEORGE W. PENDLETON has been nominated by a democratic convention as successor in the senate to Senator Mills. Mr. Pendleton is at present lieutenant-governor of Texas.

ACTING GOV. JEREMIAH'S letter to the lord mayor of London appealing for help to the authorities in Mauritius, says that over 30,000 people are homeless and that 3,000 houses in Port Louis are in ruins. Rose Hill, after Port Louis, suffered the worst. Three hundred people were killed there. It took six days to bury the 300 victims in Port Louis.

MISS IDA CRENSHAW, at present a clerk in the census bureau, stated before the house committee recently that she had been kidnapped for three months. She had received \$30 a month. For the first two months she had paid to Miss Conover, a relative of Chief Clerk Childs, \$12.50 a month of her salary. She had done so because Miss Conover said that she would endeavor to have her released.

THE people's party of the First Kansas congressional district nominated Fred Close on the eighth ballot.

THE prohibitionists of Minnesota have nominated a state ticket.

POPE LEO XIII. has determined to send an important exhibit from the Vatican to the Columbian exposition.

CONGRESSMAN GEORGE F. RAYMOND, of the Grand Army of the Republic, has issued a special order suspending the junior vice-commander of the department of Louisiana and Mississippi.

AN important battle has been fought on the prairie near Valparaiso, Wis., resulting in the defeat of Palatka's forces. There was terrible fighting all along the line, and the rout of the government troops was complete. The town of Valparaiso, in the state of Permatz, is in the hands of the rebels. On the other hand, Los Tablos has been retaken by the government. Ex-President Rolas Paul has come out openly in favor of the rebels.

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REV. THOMAS DIXON, Jr., pastor of the Twenty-third Street Baptist church of New York, has been held in \$1,000 bail on a charge of criminal libel preferred by Ex-Commissioner Joseph Josh, who claims that the reverend gentleman libeled him criminally in one of his recent sensational sermons.

AN anarchist named Dronet who had been arrested in Paris for connection with a dynamite conspiracy has disclosed the hiding place of a quantity of dynamite which has been stolen from anarchists from one of the government arsenals, went to the place indicated and unearthed 141 dynamite cartridges, sixty-six detonators and twenty-seven fuses.

SPECIAL INSPECTOR DAVIS, of the interior department, has returned from the Cherokee strip to Guthrie, Ok. He found a large number of cattle grazing there, but all have been ordered off and if they do not get out by the first of the month they will be shot by troops. The soldiers have compelled the Cherokees to stop quarrying stone and confiscated their machinery.

THE census bureau recently issued a bulletin on the subject of the assessed valuation of property in the United States in 1890. The bulletin shows that the assessed valuation of all property, excluding railroad property except in certain specified states, has increased from \$10,000,000,000 in 1880 to \$24,000,000,000 in 1890, an increase during the decade of \$14,000,000,000 or 40 per cent.

WORK on the East river, New York, tunnel has begun. It is expected that the work will be completed in two years.

THERE have been over 5,000 deaths from cholera in Calcutta.

THE strike of the Toronto bricklayers has been terminated after lasting two months.

THE annual conference of German Baptists, or Dunkards, has been in session at Cedar Rapids, Ia.

KEITH ROCK, of Danemora prison, who has been on trial for assisting a convict to escape, has been found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment.

DURING the recent storm at Lufkin, Tex., several persons were injured, a number of them fatally, and a number of buildings demolished. Blasco reports a number of houses destroyed and at least twenty persons badly injured.

THE little child of Mrs. Cullenbach was thrown on a red-hot stove and burned to death, his mother and sister being severely injured.

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FLOOD AND FIRE.

Another Pennsylvania Horror Caused by a Deluge.

The Flooding Swept Away the Oil Tanks—Oil City Destroyed With Awful Loss of Life.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., June 8.—The oil regions of Pennsylvania were visited yesterday by a disaster of fire and water that is only eclipsed in the history of the state by the terrible conflagration at Johnstown just three years ago.

It is impossible at this hour, midnight, to give anything like an accurate idea of the loss of life and property, as chaos reigns throughout the devastated region. A terrible conflagration still rages in Oil City.

It is safe to say that not less than 150 lives have been lost.

Nearly 100 bodies have already been recovered and many more are still missing.

The property loss will reach far into millions. At Titusville the loss is estimated at \$1,000,000. Oil City \$1,000,000. Corry \$500,000. Meadville \$100,000 and surrounding country probably \$1,000,000.

For nearly a month it has been raining throughout western and northern Pennsylvania incessantly, and for the past three or four days the downpour in the devastated region has been very heavy. The constant rains had converted all the small streams into raging torrents so that when the clouds burst open yesterday morning the dams were unable to withstand the onslaught.

The loss of property has been estimated at \$1,000,000. Oil City \$1,000,000. Corry \$500,000. Meadville \$100,000 and surrounding country probably \$1,000,000.

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HARROWING SCENES.

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